

The Special Meeting of the Kelso City Council was called to order by Mayor Don Gregory. Councilmembers in attendance were: Gregory, Keolker, Chester, Slater, Futcher, and McDaniel. Councilmember Wheeler was absent the entire meeting.

**TOPIC OF DISCUSSION – Kelso Public Library Tour of 109 Allen Street**

Geraldine Veenstra, Library Director, handed out a floor plan of the 109 Allen Street building. She indicated the square footage of this property is the same as the main floor (minus the basement) of the current library at 314 Academy. By moving the library to 109 Allen Street, some square footage would be lost as well as the ability to house a portion of the collection which is non-circulating and not relevant.

Mayor Gregory asked if the restrooms meet handicapped requirements. Geraldine indicated it would be easier to bring the 109 Allen building up to ADA accessibility than the building where the library is currently located.

Councilmember Slater inquired about maintaining the vault door. Geraldine said the vault door is not needed. Finance Director Veryl Anderson reported that several years ago it was approximately \$4,000 to \$6,000 to remove the door.

**At 7:07 P.M. the Council left the Council Chambers to Tour the Property at 109 Allen.**

At 7:35 P.M. the Council reconvened into Regular Session.

Councilmember Slater stated the railroad would contribute approximately \$200,000 to make a ramp across the railroad tracks. This would give access to a park area we have wanted and we could provide parking for a library at the 109 Allen location.

Mayor Gregory inquired about the amount of the Grade Street Bond which will expire in 2006. The cost to update the 109 Allen Property would be approximately \$450,000. Mayor Gregory suggested we not ask the citizens to tax themselves anymore but to revote the bond at the present rate it is now, which would continue on without a tax increase. It was Council consensus to send out a survey with the water bills to see if the public is interested.

Public Works Director David Sypher suggested we need to decide exactly what is needed and get estimates. We could spend from \$100,000 to \$450,000 depending how extensive we want to remodel.

Mayor Gregory said we need to get some dollar amounts to show how much is needed to move into 109 Allen by meeting fire code, health, safety, and handicap issues. Then we can see if this can be budgeted.

**TOPIC OF DISCUSSION – SOLID WASTE**

Councilmember Slater indicated he has concerns about solid waste. Kelso is a 160-year old city and we have had a garbage landfill for that entire time. I don't think the County Commissioners care about the citizens and their ideas and they have used some of the money to build a jail which had been voted down by the voters. If we start hauling garbage to the other side of the mountain, we will have increased costs and I am against it.

Mayor Gregory said the County Commissioners, through their legal Legal Counsel, decided to take out of the landfill fund which they believed was their money and build the jail. Their way of thinking was that it is a community jail and the funds used were for the entire community.

It was the consensus of the Council not to pursue using Weyerhaeuser's landfill and to "put to bed" any further discussion on Cowlitz County using solid waste dollars to build the jail.

**Mayor Gregory reminded Councilmembers the Mayor and three additional delegates from our sister city in Sagara, Japan, will be visiting in Kelso July 6 to July 8.** All Councilmembers and the public are invited to a dinner sponsored by the Sister City Committee on Wednesday, July 6, at 6:00 P.M. at the Wild Grizzly. The city of Sagara will be merging with another city October 1<sup>st</sup>. In late July four Kelso High School students will be going to Sagara for an exchange program and they have around ten students coming to Kelso.

Upon Motion by Councilmember Futch and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, 'Move to Adjourn,' motion carried, all voting yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8.45 p.m.

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**MAYOR**

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**CITY CLERK**